20: Hart E-5 (195.) 1954 OAI Philippines
Central Bisayan OA 14

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until 1940 when he was defeated for re-election by Telesforo Tayko, the brother of Fidel and Bautista and the great grandson of the first Telesforo Tayko. Bautista was elected mayor in 1951. In the 1953 presidential election there were 3,604 registered voters in Siaton municipality.

The Rivera-McMillan report states that 57 per cent of the population twenty-one years old and over in the thirteen barrios surveyed voted in the 1951 general election.[166] The presidential election of 1953 was more controversial and attracted a larger number of voters. Yet only 20 per cent of the people of Siaton registered and probably fewer voted in 1953. The people of Siaton are not as politically active as the barriofolk of the communities surveyed by Rivera and McMillan. One major factor for this condition is inadequate transportation and communication facilities. All voting booths, for example, are located in barrios along the National Road which makes it difficult for people to vote who live in the more isolated settlements of Siaton municipality.

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For the period 1879-1952, nearly three-fourths of a century, the capitans, presidentes, and mayors of Siaton municipality for fifty years of this period were members of the Tayko family. From 1897 to 1952 a Tayko was the top municipal official for forty-two of the fifty-five years. The dominance of the highest political

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[166] Rivera and McMillan, The Rural Philippines, p. 44.

office in Siaton by this family is quite apparent; this does not include other political and civil offices held by the Taykos such as the justice of the peace or chief of police. The control of local political affairs by one prominent family is typical of the Philippines; Siaton merely reflects what is a fairly common pattern.

The Japanese Invasion and Occupation of Negros

On December 8, 1941, the Japanese began their invasion of the Philippines, bombing various airfields and military installations throughout the archipelago. Two days later Japanese troops landed at Vigan and Aparri in Luzon. Davao, Mindanao, was invaded December 20 by the Miura Detachment, a reinforced Japanese infantry regiment. They had no difficulty in establishing a firm perimeter defense around Davao, which served as an advance base for the invasion of Indonesia.

News of the Japanese invasion reached Siaton and the mayor instructed the people to place palm leaves on the tin roofs of the church, municipio, and school buildings, for on moonlight nights the roofs shone like polished silver. A volunteer group of men over sixteen years of age was formed to patrol the beaches. Sharp bamboo sticks were placed along the shore and in the water by the people as their forefathers had done once to protect their homes from the Moros.

As the tensions due to the imminence of a Japanese invasion increased, some of the more prominent residents

51:Hart E-3 (1950-1952)1954 OA1 Philippines
Central Bisayan OA14

796 or their supporters which represent a certain number of votes. The candidate selling the most tickets wins the honor of being the "Queen" of
541 the fiesta, the runners-up are the "Princesses" or the "Queen's 'damas.'"
[557] In the larger *poblacions* and cities these contests became elaborate affairs and the candidates' parents or relatives may spend thousands of pesos to make their daughter the "Queen". In these areas, the contest is more often a struggle within the small elite than within the community as a whole.

796 The organization of each fiesta is done by various committees, a method which gives Filipinos, particularly those living in *barrios*, some valuable experience in committee work—one basic aspect of democracy in action.[7]
[369] Committee organization increases in size and complexity as one moves from the small *barrio* fiesta to large urban fiestas. There are usually the following committees in most fiestas: executive or board of directors; arches (to build the bamboo-paper decorated arches under which the patron saint is carried during the procession); athletics (to arrange for various competitive sports); auditorium and decoration (to build a temporary dancing area, especially in the *barrios*, or prepare and decorate the plaza or schoolhouse); beauty or popularity contest; dance; decorations (often listed as "all lady teachers" whose responsibility is to decorate the church and altar); finance and audit (usually chaired by the municipal treasurer); invitation and reception; lights (sometimes such a committee must arrange to rent a generator to supply electricity during the fiesta period); music; parade; publicity; program; and patrons and donors (to obtain prizes for the various contests held during the fiesta).

796 The membership of the *barrio*, and particularly the *poblacion*, fiesta
565 committees is largely composed of the *principalia*—the more prominent people of the community. In the *barrio*, social and economic stratification is not as visible or complex as in the *poblacion*; but it exists, nevertheless, in a milder form. The importance of the *principalia* in organizing the Philippine fiesta is a distinct difference between most of the fiesta of Mexico where the organizational and administrative aspects of the event are disdained by the more prominent citizens. If the fiesta is to be more effectively used as a way of giving the people increased experience in committee work, the organizational aspects need to be broadened to include more individuals outside the *principalia*. Whether this can be accomplished, however, under the present systems of social stratification in the Philippines is somewhat dubious.

[7] In a penetrating and provocative article, Lansang states the lack of experience of most Filipinos with "so elementary a democratic tool as the committee of conference." Jose Lansang, "The Philippine-American Experiment, a Filipino View," *Pacific Affairs*, 25:233, September, 1952.